



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Timucuan Ecological and
Historic Preserve

Kingsley Plantation

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Timucuan Preserve/Kingsley Plantation News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black History Month Celebrated at Kingsley Plantation

Editor's Note: A full text version of this release is available at: www.nps.gov/timu under "Events."

Kingsley Plantation will host a special presentation at 2:00 p.m. each Saturday in February in honor of Black History Month. The presentations celebrate the cultural contributions of the enslaved men, women, and children of the plantation period by connecting modern culture with plantation or African roots. Sponsored by the National Park Service's Timucuan Preserve, these presentations are free and open to the public.

2:00 p.m. Presentation Dates and Titles:

February 3 African Folktales
 Abayomi Iyewarun

February 10 Guided Walk at the Slave Quarters
 Park Ranger

February 17 Almost to Freedom (For Kids!)
 Park Staff

February 24 Archaeology of the Slave Quarters
 Dr. James Davidson & the Florida Public Archaeology Network

Throughout the afternoon of February 24, a Florida Public Archaeology Network staff member will be at the park to speak with visitors about archaeology in northeast Florida.

Presentation Summaries:

Join Abayomi Ayodeji Iyewarun, born in the Kogi State of Nigeria, as he tells stories of his homeland and childhood while sharing **African Folktales** passed down through his

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- Black History Month Celebrated at Kingsley Plantation, continued -

family. He is the grandson of the “Oba Yagba” (traditional ruler/king) of the Yagba Local Government Area of Kogi State of Nigeria. His father, Dr. Samuel Iyewarun, published traditional stories in his book *African Folktales*, many of which will be shared during the program.

The **Guided Walk at the Slave Quarters** will be led by a National Park Service ranger and focus on the cultural contributions of the enslaved men, women, and children of the plantation period by connecting aspects of modern culture with its plantation or African roots.

Join Ranger Cicely as she reads *Almost to Freedom*, a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book. After the reading, kids can make the rag doll character who tells the story in the book!

The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and Dr. James Davidson, Professor of Anthropology and African Studies at the University of Florida, will present the findings of the 2006 Kingsley Plantation project, **Archaeology of the Slave Quarters**. Dr. Davidson’s research interests include the African Diaspora, historical archaeology, and folk beliefs. The FPAN works to provide education and information about issues related to archaeology in Florida. A FPAN staff member will be at the park throughout the afternoon to talk with visitors about archaeology in northeast Florida.

Kingsley Plantation is free and open to the public daily between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Visitors can explore the life of the plantation’s enslaved workforce and the life and times of the Kingsley family. The grounds include the remains of twenty-five slave quarters, the barn, kitchen building, plantation house, plantation-era crops garden, and waterfront. The plantation house is currently closed due to structural problems.

More information about Black History Month events and Kingsley Plantation is available at the park’s website: www.nps.gov/timu. Click on “Events.”

Kingsley Plantation is located on Fort George Island in Jacksonville, Florida, one-half mile north of the St. Johns River Ferry landing on Heckscher Drive/A1A.

January 12, 2007

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